

What is claimed is:

1. A watercraft cover comprising:

a sheet of water repellant material;

5 at least two pockets attached to the sheet;

at least one support structure having a first end and a second end, the pockets receiving the first and second ends of the at least one support structure;

a support structure sleeve located substantially between the at least two pockets useful for receiving the at least one support structure;

10 at least one strap attachable to the sheet which is configured to bend the at least one support structure to form a shape which prevents water collection and deflects wind on the sheet;

wherein the at least one support structure is normally irreversibly integrated into or retained by the sheet, the at least one support structure and the sheet being collapsible together

15 for portability without separating such at least one support structure and sheet.

2. The watercraft cover of claim 1, further including a dual retention system attached to the sheet, wherein the dual retention system includes a first relatively elastic cord and a second relatively inelastic cord, the dual retention system useful for securely attaching the watercraft

20 cover to a watercraft.

3. The watercraft cover of claim 2, wherein the at least one support structure further includes a notch at a substantially central location, the notch being useful for retaining a thread rigidly attached to the support structure sleeve attached to the sheet.

5 4. The watercraft cover of claim 2, wherein the at least one support structure further includes a hole at a substantially central location, the hole being useful for receiving a rivet rigidly attached to the support structure sleeve attached to the sheet.

5. The watercraft cover of claim 2, wherein the at least two pockets are adjustable.

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6. The watercraft cover of claim 2, further including a vent, and a baffle and drain useful for preventing water from entering the watercraft through the vent.

7. The watercraft cover of claim 2, further including means for attaching an engine cover.

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8. The watercraft cover of claim 2, wherein the first relatively elastic cord is comprised of two pieces, each having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of each of the two pieces is rigidly attached towards the front of the sheet, and the second end of each piece has a locking mechanism to reversibly retain a desired tension.

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9. The watercraft cover of claim 2, wherein the second relatively inelastic cord has a first end rigidly attached at a first location towards the rear of the sheet, and a second end attached at a second location towards the rear of the sheet.

5 10. The watercraft cover of claim 9, wherein the second relatively inelastic strap continues from the first location towards the rear of the sheet, around the front of the sheet, and ends at the second location towards the rear of the sheet.

11. The watercraft cover of claim 10, further including means for tightening the second  
10 relatively inelastic strap against the watercraft.

12. The watercraft cover of claim 11, further including a strap sleeve located towards the outside perimeter of the sheet, sized to contain both the first relatively elastic strap and the second relatively inelastic strap.

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13. The watercraft cover of claim 2, further including a strap sleeve located towards the outside perimeter of the sheet, sized to contain both the first relatively elastic strap and the second relatively inelastic strap.

20 14. The watercraft cover of claim 1, further including at least three cover gathering means secured to the sheet and adapted for tightening of the sheet against a watercraft, wherein one

cover gathering means is configured to secure the aft end of the watercraft cover by engaging a pontoon of the watercraft.

15. The watercraft cover of claim 14 wherein the pockets are adjustable.

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16. The watercraft cover of claim 14 where the support structures are made of at least one flexible material which allows formation of an arch shape.

17. The watercraft cover of claim 14 where the cover gathering means have locking

10 mechanisms to reversibly retain a desired tension.

18. The watercraft cover of claim 14 where the at least one strap is located parallel to the beam width of the watercraft.

15 19. The watercraft cover of claim 14 where the at least one strap is located at acute angles to the beam width of the watercraft.

20. A travel watercraft cover comprising:

a sheet of water repellant material;

20 at least two pockets attached to the sheet;

at least one support structure having a first end and a second end, the pockets receiving the first and second ends of the at least one support structure;

at least one strap attached to the sheet which is configured to bend the at least one support structure to form a shape which prevents water collection and deflects wind on the sheet;

a vent; and

5 a dual retention system attached to the sheet, wherein the dual retention system includes a first relatively elastic cord and a second relatively inelastic cord, the dual retention system useful for securely attaching the watercraft cover to a watercraft.

21. The watercraft cover of claim 20, wherein the at least two pockets are adjustable.

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22. The watercraft cover of claim 20, wherein the sheet further includes a support structure sleeve located substantially between the at least two pockets useful for receiving the support structures.

15 23. The watercraft cover of claim 20, further including a baffle and drain useful for preventing water from entering the watercraft through the vent.

24 The watercraft cover of claim 20, further including at least one holding strap useful for stabilizing the watercraft cover while it is being attached to the watercraft.

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25 The watercraft cover of claim 20, further including a rear retention strap useful for securing the rear portion of the watercraft cover to the watercraft.

26. The watercraft cover of claim 20, further including means for attaching an engine cover.

27. The watercraft cover of claim 20, wherein the at least one strap is comprised of two  
5 pieces which are configured to reversibly connect to each other.

28. The watercraft cover of claim 27, further including means for tightening the at least one  
strap, the tightening means located where the two pieces of the strap intersect.

10 29. The watercraft cover of claim 20, wherein the first relatively elastic cord is comprised of  
two pieces, each having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of each of the two  
pieces is rigidly attached towards the front of the sheet, and the second end of each piece has a  
locking mechanism to reversibly retain a desired tension.

15 30. The watercraft cover of claim 20, wherein the second relatively inelastic cord has a first  
end rigidly attached at a first location towards the rear of the sheet, and a second end attached at  
a second location towards the rear of the sheet.

31. The watercraft cover of claim 30, wherein the second relatively inelastic strap continues  
20 from the first location towards the rear of the sheet, around the front of the sheet, and ends at  
the second location towards the rear of the sheet.

32. The watercraft cover of claim 31, further including means for tightening the second relatively inelastic strap.

33. The watercraft cover of claim 32, further including a strap sleeve located towards the  
5 outside perimeter of the sheet, sized to contain both the first relatively elastic strap and the second relatively inelastic strap.

34. The watercraft cover of claim 31, further including strap loops periodically located towards the outside perimeter of the sheet, useful for retaining both the first relatively elastic  
10 strap and the second relatively inelastic strap.

35. The watercraft cover of claim 20, further including a strap sleeve located towards the outside perimeter of the sheet, sized to contain both the first relatively elastic strap and the second relatively inelastic strap.

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36. The watercraft cover of claim 20, further including strap loops periodically located towards the outside perimeter of the sheet, useful for retaining both the first relatively elastic strap and the second relatively inelastic strap.

20 37. A watercraft cover comprising:  
a sheet of water repellant material;

at least two support structures which are secured by support structure sleeves attached to the sheet;

at least three cover gathering means secured to the sheet and adapted for tightening of the sheet against a watercraft, wherein one cover gathering means is configured to  
5 secure the aft end of the watercraft cover by engaging a pontoon of the watercraft; and

straps attached to the sheet and configured to reversibly connect to each other in order to bend the support structures to form a shape which prevents water collection and deflects wind on the sheet.

10 38. The watercraft cover of claim 37 where the ends of the support structures reversibly fit into pockets attached to the sheet which are located near the edge of the sheet.

39. The watercraft cover of claim 38 wherein the pockets are adjustable.

15 40. The watercraft cover of claim 37 where the support structures are made of at least one flexible material which allows formation of an arch shape.

41. The watercraft cover of claim 37 where the cover gathering means have locking mechanisms to reversibly retain a desired tension.

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42. The watercraft cover of claim 37 where the straps are located parallel to the beam width of the watercraft.



43. The watercraft cover of claim 37 where the straps are located at acute angles to the beam width of the watercraft.

5 44. The watercraft cover of claim 37 wherein the support structure sleeves may be integrally positioned within the cover, on the outside, or the inside of the cover.

45. A method of using a watercraft cover comprising:

10       securing a watercraft cover to a watercraft, the watercraft cover comprising a sheet of water repellant material, at least two pockets attached to the sheet, at least one support structure having a first end and a second end, the pockets receiving the first and second ends of the at least one support structure, a support structure sleeve located substantially between the at least two pockets useful for receiving the at least one support structure, at least one strap attachable to the sheet which is configured to bend the at least one support structure to form a shape which  
15 prevents water collection and deflects wind on the sheet, wherein the at least one support structure is normally irreversibly integrated into or retained by the sheet, the at least one support structure and the sheet being collapsible together for portability without separating such at least one support structure and sheet;

20       inserting the first and second ends of the at least one support structure into the at least two pockets; and

      bending the at least one support structure to form a shape which prevents water collection and deflects wind on the sheet and holding the shape with the strap.

46. The method of using a watercraft cover of claim 45, wherein the watercraft cover further includes a dual retention system attached to the sheet, wherein the dual retention system includes a first relatively elastic cord and a second relatively inelastic cord, the dual retention system useful for securely attaching the watercraft cover to a watercraft, further including the step of tightening the sheet against the watercraft with the first relatively elastic cord and the second relatively inelastic cord.

47. The method of using a watercraft cover of claim 45, wherein the watercraft cover further includes at least three cover gathering means secured to the sheet and adapted for tightening of the sheet against a watercraft, wherein one cover gathering means is configured to secure the aft end of the watercraft cover by engaging a pontoon of the watercraft, further including the step of tightening the sheet against the watercraft with the at least three cover gathering means.